

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 880

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The question is the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 880. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. The amendments are agreed to.

CLERK: The first amendment, Mr. President, Senator Schimek, AM1432. (See page 1811 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on Amendment 1432.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'd like to, first of all, explain to you why I'm bringing this amendment at this time on the floor, and I really did try to access the appropriations process in the...just before General File, and for a variety of reasons, I wasn't successful, but I'm not sure that the issues had enough of a hearing. You probably haven't been lobbied on this issue at all, so I hope that you will, at least, give me half of your attention today because this...this did, literally, just get filed yesterday afternoon. So it's a fairly new amendment out there. What it involves is the Volunteer Service Commission, and I don't know how many of you remember that bill, but it had the misfortune to be the first bill out on the floor that had a commission connected with it, and it did not advance from General File, as you recall. And I have left it sitting there all this time as we tried to work through what to do about the bill because it is an important agency. If you remember, it was established by executive order in 1994. Since its inception, thousands of volunteers have been logged through various programs sponsored by the commission. Over 7,000 people, at last count, have been mobilized to donate volunteer hours for programs in their communities. And the commission, through its organizations, has provided and coordinated training and technical assistance and encouraged volunteer involvement. Volunteer efforts have focused on meeting human education in the environmental and public safety needs, and as you recall from the bill, there's a 25-member commission which has to be there by federal law in order for us to take the federal funds from the National Service Corporation. So what...what this recommendation today would not do is it would not do away with the commission. The commission would still be in place. Instead of a 75,000 dollar appropriation a year, which the bill